

**MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION ACT-- S. 1880
SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT BY SENATORS BILL FRIST, M.D. AND EDWARD
KENNEDY**

**TITLE I - IMPROVING MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES THROUGH
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

Establishment of Center

Title I establishes the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH to conduct and support research, training, and dissemination of health information with respect to the health disparities of racial and ethnic minority groups, and other health disparity populations. The director of the Center is appointed by the Secretary of HHS and reports to the Director of NIH. The Secretary will also appoint an advisory council, consisting of experts regarding minority health issues and representatives of communities impacted by racial, ethnic, and other health disparities, to provide advice to the Center Director. This title also establishes a research endowment program to facilitate minority health disparities and other health disparities research at centers of excellence with.

The Center Director must annually prepare a report for Congress and the Secretary that: describes and evaluates progress made at NIH in health disparities research; summarizes and analyzes yearly expenditures made for health disparities research activities at NIH; and makes any recommendations that the Center Director considers appropriate.

Authorizes \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for the fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

Centers of Excellence for Research on Health Disparities and Training

Requires the Secretary to make grants to and enter into contracts with designated biomedical and behavioral research institutions or consortia for the purpose of assisting the institutions in supporting programs of excellence in biomedical and behavioral research training for individuals who are members of minority or other health disparity populations. These institutions must: train minorities or other members of health disparity populations as professionals in the area of biomedical research or behavioral research; or improve infrastructure by expanding, remodeling, renovating, or altering existing research facilities or constructing new research facilities for conducting biomedical research related to health disparities.

Designated Institutions are those that: enroll a significant number of members of minority or other health disparity populations; effectively assist such students to complete their degrees; recruit and enroll and graduate minority students at their institution, including providing scholarships and financial assistance to such individuals; or make significant recruitment efforts to increase the number of minority or other

members of health disparity populations serving in faculty or administrative positions at the institution. Any designated biomedical and behavioral research institution involved may, with other biomedical research institutions (designated or otherwise), form a consortium to carry out the purposes described above.

Authorizes such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2001 through 2005.

Extramural Loan Repayment Program for Minority and Other Health Disparities Research

Establishes a loan repayment program of \$35,000 for each year of service to repay the principal and interest of educational loans for qualified health professionals engaged in minority or other health disparities research. Applies the provisions of the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program to this program, and requires that 50 percent of the loan repayment contracts are for appropriately qualified health professionals who are members of a health disparity population.

Authorizes such sums as are necessary for fiscal years 2001 through 2005.

TITLE II - HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH BY THE AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

Directs the Administrator of AHRQ to: identify populations for which there is a significant disparity in the quality, outcomes, cost, or use of health care services or access; identify the causes and barriers to reducing health disparities; identify, test, and evaluate strategies for reducing or eliminating health disparities; develop measures and tools for the assessment and improvement of the outcomes, quality, and appropriateness of health care services; and increase the number of researchers who are members of health disparity populations, or the health services research capacity of institutions that train such researchers.

Directs the Administrator to conduct and support research to: identify factors that contribute to health disparities; identify strategies to improve the quality, outcomes, and access to care for health disparity populations; and test the strategies that are identified and ensure that effective strategies are widely disseminated.

Directs the Administrator to implement research strategies and mechanisms that will enhance the involvement of health disparity populations, including minority populations, and assess the experience of health disparity populations with health care systems. Requires the Director to examine the practices of providers with a record of reducing health disparities or providing culturally competent services. Requires the Secretary to prepare and submit a report to Congress within 3 years describing the efforts of the Department to address this need and a description of related activities in the private sector.

Authorizes \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for the fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

TITLE III - DATA COLLECTION RELATING TO RACE OR ETHNICITY

Directs the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct a comprehensive study of the data collection or reporting systems at the Department of Health and Human Services that relate to the collection of data on race or ethnicity. This study should include other Federal data collection systems (such as the Social Security Administration) with which the Department interacts to collect data on race and ethnicity.

Authorizes such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for the fiscal year 2001.

TITLE IV - HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

Allows the Secretary to award grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to public and private entities, such as health professions schools, academic health centers, state or local governments, or other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities for the purpose of carrying out research and demonstration projects for training and education of health professionals for the reduction of disparities in health care outcomes and the provision of culturally competent care. Authorizes \$3,500,000 for FY2001, \$7,000,000 for FY2002, \$7,000,000 for FY2003, and \$3,500,000 for FY2004.

Requires the Secretary to convene a conference of all eligible entities on health professions education as a method for reducing health disparities. This conference must include, at a minimum, issues that address the role and impact of health professions education on the reduction of disparities in health outcomes, the role of education on cultural competency, methods to achieve reductions in health disparities through health professions education, and strategies for outcome measurement to assess the effectiveness of education in reducing disparities.

Requires the Office of Minority Health to advise the Secretary in matters related to the development, implementation, and evaluation of health professions education in decreasing disparities in health outcomes. Requires the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Minority Health to carry out these advisory duties in collaboration with appropriate personnel from HHS, other Federal agencies, and other offices, centers, and institutions, as appropriate, that have responsibilities under this Act.

TITLE V - PUBLIC AWARENESS and DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

Requires the Secretary to conduct a national campaign informing the public and health professionals about health disparities in minorities and other underserved populations, and an evaluation of the impact of the national campaign in raising awareness about health. The Secretary must also develop and implement a plan for the dissemination of information and findings with respect to the health disparities under Titles I, II, III, and IV. Such plan must involve all HHS agencies responsible for serving these populations and involve the development of agency-specific strategies for disseminating relevant findings and information

to affected communities.